



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 13, 2005

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DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AGENT INDICTED FOR HARBORING ALIENS

TUCSON, Ariz. -- A federal grand jury here returned a nine count indictment on May 11, 2005 against Department of Homeland Security Immigration Enforcement Agent Ramon M. Sanchez, Jr., 41, of Tucson, Ariz. The indictment alleges that Sanchez committed offenses related to illegally bringing in his wife, Flor Liliana Velasco-Barrera, and her 10-year-old son, into the United States; transporting and harboring them within the U.S.; and that both Velasco-Barrera and the juvenile are aliens residing within in the U.S. without proper authorization. The indictment further alleges that Sanchez conspired with his wife to bring in, transport and harbor the juvenile and that Sanchez aided and abetted his wife's illegal entry into the U.S. Sanchez has been released pending trial. Velasco-Barrera has not been charged with any crimes.

The federal indictment charges Mr. Sanchez with violating Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(ii), 1325(a), 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(II), and 1324(a)(2)(A) and Title 18, U.S. Code, Sections 371 and 2.

A conviction for Harboring, Transporting, or Conspiracy to Harbor or Transport Illegal Aliens carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Aiding an Illegal Entry carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Bringing In Illegal Aliens carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The prosecution is being handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0960-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-095

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